

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 212575  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212575

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, IZ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: BAGHDAD 1698

1. WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORT YOU HAVE MADE IN YOUR CON-  
VERSATION WITH KETTANEH AND BELIEVE THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF  
THAT CONVERSATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE MERITS  
A FURTHER EFFORT ON YOUR PART TO PERSUADE THE IRAQI  
GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON PUERTO RICO. IN  
YOUR FURTHER CONVERSATIONS, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT  
THIS QUESTION IS OF CONCERN TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE  
US GOVERNMENT AND THAT WE HOPE THAT IRAQ WILL BEAR THAT  
FACT IN MIND IN FURTHER CONSIDERING ITS POSITION.

2. ON THE MERITS OF THE QUESTION ITSELF, YOU SHOULD  
EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:

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PAGE 02 STATE 212575

--THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION HAS MADE CLEAR THE WILLING-  
NESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT THE EXPRESSED VIEWS  
OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.

--PUERTO RICO ALLOWS OPEN POLITICAL DEBATE AND ACTIVITY  
BY ALL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS, WITH FREE AND DEMOCRATIC  
ELECTIONS. FOR THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO DECIDE THAT

PUERTO RICO BELONGS ON A LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO SAYING THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO ARE NOT ABLE TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS FREELY ON THE ISSUE OF STATUS. SUCH A CONCLUSION FLIES IN THE FACE OF THE HISTORY AND POLITICS OF PUERTO RICO OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES, INCLUDING REPEATED FREE ELECTIONS, THE CURRENT GOVERNOR'S CALL FOR A 1981 STATUS REFERENDUM, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S PLEDGE TO SUPPORT WHATEVER RESULT THE PUERTO RICANS CHOOSE.

--IRAQ SHOULD CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER ITS NON-ALIGNED POSITION DOES NOT MITIGATE AGAINST SUPPORT OF THE THESIS PRESSED BY THOSE OPPOSED TO THE US THAT PUERTO RICO IS A COLONY, 25 YEARS AFTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DETERMINED THAT THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO EXERCISED THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT KETTANEH'S SUGGESTION THAT WE EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO LET THE UN OBSERVE A REFERENDUM IS PREMATURE. YOU SHOULD TELL HIM, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO SHOULD IN FUTURE DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE UN OBSERVING A REFERENDUM IN PUERTO RICO, WE FORESEE NO REASON WHY OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD OPPOSE THIS.

4. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THESE FACTORS -- AND  
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PAGE 03 STATE 212575

CONSIDERING AS WELL THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL VIEW ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AS PROPOSED BY CUBA AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO -- WE URGE THAT IRAQ CONSIDER ITS OWN NATIONAL INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER. CONSEQUENTLY, WE URGE THAT IRAQ VOTE IN SUPPORT OF FURTHER DEFERRAL BY THE COMMITTEE OF 24.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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